

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-46. (Cancelled).
47. (Currently Amended): A soluble immunoglobulin-polypeptide chimera comprising an immunoglobulin having a CDR₃ region, wherein a diabetogenic epitope comprising a polypeptide having amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 4 is inserted within the CDR₃ region.
48. (Cancelled).
49. (Withdrawn): The chimera of claim 48 wherein the epitope comprises INS β or a diabetogenic fragment thereof.
50. (Withdrawn): The chimera of claim 49 wherein the epitope comprises amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 1 or a diabetogenic fragment thereof.
51. (Cancelled).
52. (Cancelled).
53. (Cancelled).
54. (Previously Presented): The chimera of claim 47 wherein the chimera is capable of being endocytosed by Fc receptor cells and processed by said cells to present the at least one protein fragment or peptide to endogenous MHC Class II molecules, thereby reducing or preventing activation of T cells specific for the diabetogenic epitope.
55. (Previously Presented): The chimera of claim 47 wherein the immunoglobulin comprises IgG.
56. (Previously Presented): The chimera of claim 55 wherein said IgG is human IgG or humanized IgG.
57. (Cancelled).
58. (Cancelled).
59. (Currently Amended): The chimera of claim 47, wherein the ~~wherein~~ at least one diabetogenic epitope replaces a D segment ~~region~~ within said CDR₃ region.
60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a chimera according to claim 47 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
62. (Withdrawn): A method of treating or preventing type-1 diabetes in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61.
63. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 62 wherein the subject is in pre-insulinitis stage of type-1 diabetes when treatment is initiated.
64. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 62 wherein the subject has not yet undergone IAA seroconversion when treatment is initiated.
65. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 62 wherein the subject has seroconverted and produces autoantibodies against one or more β -cell associated antigens when treatment is initiated.